CLAIMS

1. A hydrophilic polymer with improved biodegradability, characterized in that it contains:

- from 70% to 99% by weight of units derived by polymerization from at least one monomer A bearing a carboxylic acid function or an equivalent function,
- from 1% to 30% by weight of units derived by polymerization from at least one monomer B bearing an electron-rich group or a function capable of introducing an electron-rich group into the main chain,
- from 0% to 29% by weight of units derived by polymerization from at least one monomer C which is copolymerizable with A and B, but is different from A and B.

2. The hydrophilic polymer as claimed in claim 1, characterized in that the monomer A is chosen from the group consisting of monomers bearing at least one carboxylic acid and derivatives thereof, such as maleic anhydride, acrylic acid, methacrylic acid, itaconic acid, fumaric acid and maleic acid, and the salts thereof.

3. The hydrophilic polymer as claimed in claim 2, characterized in that the monomer A is acrylic acid.

4. The hydrophilic polymer as claimed in claims 1 to 3, characterized in that the monomer B is chosen from the group consisting of:

monomers bearing two conjugated double bonds, such as butadiene, isoprene, chloroprene, dimethylbutadiene, cyclohexadiene, butadienecarboxylic acid and butadienedicarboxylic acid, and

monomers bearing a triple bond, such as acetylene, acetylenecarboxylic acid and acetylenedicarboxylic acid.

5. The hydrophilic polymer as claimed in claim 4, characterized in that the monomer B is isoprene.

6. The hydrophilic polymer as claimed in one of claims 1 to 5, characterized in that the monomer C is

chosen from the group containing monomers that are copolymerizable with A and B, such as vinyl, acrylic and styrene monomers and derivatives thereof, but which are different from A and B.

7. A use of a hydrophilic polymer as claimed in one of claims 1 to 6 in detergent compositions.

8. The hydrophilic polymer as claimed in any one of claims 1 to 6, characterized in that it is crosslinked with a difunctional agent to form a carboxylic polymer which can be used as a superabsorbent.